Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Four times Amended) A isolated DNA molecule, which encodes the amino acid sequence described in Sequence No. 2 or a fragment thereof having α-amylase activity.

3. (Twice Amended) A DNA molecule encoding a protein exhibiting alkaline liquefying α-amylase activity at a pH optimum of 8-9 and possessing an amino acid sequence which has been obtained by modifying an amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2 in a manner in which one or more amino acids are substituted, deleted, or inserted without changing enzymological properties of said amino acid sequence described in SEQ ID NO:2 and hydrolyzes 1,4-α-glucosidic linkages in starches, amylose, amylopectin, and degradation products thereof and in amylose forms: glucose (G1), maltose (G2), maltotriose (G3), maltotetrose (G4), maltopentose (G5) and maltohexose (G6) and does not hydrolyze pullulan.

20. (Amended) The DNA molecule of claim 3, wherein said encoded protein has an isolectric point higher than 8.5 when measured by isoelectric focusing electrophoresis.

22. (Amended) A DNA molecule comprising at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 9.

23. (Amended) A DNA molecule comprising at least one nucleotide sequence that is the reverse complement of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 11.

24. (Amended) A DNA molecule comprising at least one nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 10, SEQ ID NO: 7, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 6 and SEQ ID NO: 9, and also comprising at least one nucleotide sequence that is the reverse complement of a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 8, SEQ ID NO: 3, SEQ ID NO: 4 and SEQ ID NO: 11.